



*Overview of the excavations in the Industrial Quarter with indication of insulae and houses (after Van Liefveringe et al. 2011, 10, fig. 5).*

## 11. The Archaic-Classical Settlement

The Archaic settlement of Thorikos is almost invisible in architectural terms. Ceramics of the period have, however, been found in considerable densities, suggesting an extended inhabited area especially in the Industrial Quarter – where large-scale construction of houses in the later, 5<sup>th</sup> century BC may have obliterated or incorporated pre-existing house architecture. House/Insula 5, consisting of several rooms around an open courtyard, was excavated between 1971 and 1973 and has recently been studied with a view to comprehensive publication. It is exemplary for the local settlement sequence: some 10% of the 700 datable finds (recovered mostly from levelling fill layers), belong to the 6<sup>th</sup> century, while 12% date to the 6<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> century, and 60% to the 5<sup>th</sup> century BC. Generally, the 5<sup>th</sup>-century assemblages consist of both common and fine household ceramics and vessels interpreted as utensils for ore-refining processes, such as wash-basins or





*Archaic and Classical ceramics from House/Insula 5.*

- TC71.1054: *lekane* rim, 5<sup>th</sup> century BC; TC71.1054a: spindle whorl;  
 TC71.374: amphora wall sherd, 2<sup>nd</sup> generation black-figure painters, 580-570 BC;  
 TC71.972: black-figure open vessel, 6<sup>th</sup> century BC;  
 TC72.207 and TC72.145: open vessels, 'Ragusa Group', early 6<sup>th</sup> century BC;  
 TC71.958: red-figure krater rim, 5<sup>th</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> century BC;  
 TC73.362: lamp, early 5<sup>th</sup> century BC  
 (plate: JB).

*lekanai*, found in seemingly disproportionate numbers: in House 5 alone, more than 290 such fragments have been found, 145 of them dated, mainly to the 5<sup>th</sup> century BC. The 4<sup>th</sup> century is also well represented in House 5, with c. 14% of the datable finds. This phase, following a temporary depopulation at the end of the Peloponnesian War (431-404 BC), is characterized by the implantation of metallurgical workshops within some of the pre-existing, 5<sup>th</sup>-century houses. The inhabited area seems now to have become confined to the lower Velatouri, where the mine entrances are also situated, while habitation on the acropolis appears to have come to a halt.

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Reference: Mussche 1998, 52-53; Lüdorf 2000; van de Put, forthcoming.

